

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 HUD-01 DOTE-00 AGR-05 CU-02

SAM-01 /086 W

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O 221814Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1501

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 380

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: (1) U.S. AID TO GOP; (2) CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE

1. PRESENTED FONMIN JANUARY 22 WITH SUGGESTED AID PRESS COMMUNIQUE REPORTED LISBON 373. TOLD SOARES I WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY JANUARY 24.

2. SOARES READ COMPLETE TEXT AND SEEMED TO LIKE THE APPROACH. SAID HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE PRESIDENT AS RESULT OF OUR CONVERSATION JANUARY 18 (LISBON 305). IN MY PRESENCE HE CALLED IN AN ASSISTANT AND ORDERED DRAFT COMMUNIQUE SENT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT.

3. ASKED SOARES HOW PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES SHOULD BE INFORMED. SOARES SAID HE HAD SENT HIM NOTE SUBSEQUENT TO OUR JANUARY 18 MEETING. UNLESS GONCALVES REACTS SOARES SAW NO NEED FOR US TO APPROACH PRIME MINISTER ON AID PRIOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

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4. TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO ASK SOARES ABOUT CURRENT CRISIS, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER SOCIALIST DID INTEND TO LEAVE COALITION. SOARES RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE WITHIN PS TO DO THIS, BUT HE HIMSELF WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED. SOCIALISTS MEETING THIS WEEKEND TO DETERMINE POSITION ( LISBON 378).

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT MFA ATTITUDE, SOARES CONFIRMED MY IMPRESSION THAT MFA NOW TRYING TO BACK OFF A BIT FROM ITS PUBLIC ASSOCIATION WITH PCP. SAID SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING ABOUT CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN DRAFT LABOR DECREE WITH SUPPORT OF MFA ELEMENTS WHO HAD SIDED WITH PCP ON OVERALL ISSUE. SOARES CLAIMED TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CHANGING THE LAW SO MUCH THAT SOCIALISTS COULD NOW WORK FREELY FROM WITHIN THE UNIONS DESPITE COMMUNIST CONTROL OF SUPERSTRUCTURE. HE NOTED THAT CHURCH SUPPORT (LISBON 361) HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT.

6. SOARES ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SATURDAY'S STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS MY MFA (LISBON 360) DESIGNED TO OFFSET SOCIALIST-PPD DEFEAT ON LABOR LAW. SOARES CONSIDERS THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SINCE COMMUNISTS "WILL CLEARLY LOSE ELECTIONS." NOW THAT MILITARY HAS REAFFIRMED ITS POSITION PUBLICLY "COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES IN ORDER TO BLOCK ELECTIONS."  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

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